

Maryland Youth Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – 10/10/2015



Maryland Youth Advisory Council
c/o Governor's Office for Children
301 West Preston St., Suite 1502,
Baltimore, MD 21201

Senator Roger Manno, *Co-Chair*
House of Delegates Co-Chair, *(Vacant)*
Christina Drushel Williams, *Co-Chair*

Alison N. Smith, *Co-Chair*
Matthew Saxton, *Vice-Chair*
Zachary Caplan, *Secretary*

General Meeting October 10, 2015

**Anne Arundel County Library- Riviera Beach Community Branch
1130 Duvall Highway, Pasadena, MD 21122**

In Attendance

Council Members:

Anna Selbrede
Antonio Morrell
Casey Levy
Connor Mull
Grace Hageman
Ian McGrory
Jamaka Thomas
Jonathan Dayton
Kayla Knotts
Kim Carter

Matthew Saxton
Maya Lapinski
Michael Keffler
Nicholas Schmitz
Nora Corasaniti
Patricia Miller
Sarah Ahmed
Savannah Williams
Sydney Parker
Tahseen Rasheed

Thorne Lindsey
Tierra Harris
Tyler Hagen
Viraj Paul
Zach Caplan

Co-Chairs:

Alison Smith
Christina Drushel Williams

Introduction

- Meeting called to order 12:03 PM
- Council members introduce themselves and their county
- Minutes approved by Grace

Icebreaker

- Council members were asked different questions and were supposed to walk to the corner of the room to answer if they agree, somewhat agree, disagree, or somewhat disagree
- Topics included: affordable housing, university, and leadership skills

Committee Updates

Legislative:

- Phone conference to review legislation
 - House Bill 0198: Education
 - House Bill 0086: Maintain student voting rights
 - Senate Bill 0295: Drunk Driving
 - Senate Bill 0228: Supplemental public school construction
- Committee breakout to include further discussion of bills

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Public Awareness:

- September meeting reviewed conflicts faced with public awareness
- Review ways to promote flyers, videos, etc.
- Help establish platform
- Flyers to send to MYAC members, post them around
- Social Media: Facebook page, GOC Twitter Page

Email Updates

- GOC purchased emails for MYAC members
- Emails to be used specifically for MYAC related activity
- Account is managed by GOC
- Must be used appropriately
- Email account doesn't mean that members are employees or representatives of any state entity, nor are they direct representatives for the Hogan administration
- Email purpose is to represent self, council, and other organizations affiliated with any MYAC activity
- GOC has the lawful right to go in account, view messages, and close email access
- A legal disclaimer has been inserted in signature line cannot be removed or altered
- Accounts will be closed on the end of term
- Council members were given login information
- Option for email to be forwarded to own private email is possible
- Ms. Smith instructed council members to review information and set up email by Saturday October 17, 2015
- Council members are instructed to sign GOC Information Technology Resources and the documents are to be placed in records of GOC

Community Conversation Exercise

- Legislative platform to be filled with what council members believe in to reflect the interests of youth in MD
- Council members divided into two groups to discuss different issues faced by youth in MD, causes, and potential solutions.

Community Conversation – Group 1		
Problem/Issue/Concern	Cause	Solution
Bullying	Lack of stability; bigger schools = more power imbalance	Meetings (info & what is happening); community activity
Suicide/mental illness	Bullying; stress; lack of support; tragedy	Ability to identify at-risk behavior; awareness of the severity of the issue; available counseling
Sexual Assault	How to treat/objectification; use of drugs and alcohol	Security; clear disciplinary policy; seminars; buddy system
Cheating in School	High expectations; too much work, no enough time; skipping class; competition; don't understand	Tutors and more resources; better taught lessons; incentive s for turning in cheaters; decrease number of tests/assignments;

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		turnitin.com; policies enforced and informed
Drugs and Alcohol	Peer pressure; boredom; conform; stress; being “grown up;” societal norms	Aware of consequences and health effects; real life examples: up-to-date; education at younger age; legal consequences; tests on athletes; testing procedures; provide information to parents on their responsibility; assemblies
No Drug and Alcohol counseling available	No education on responsibility; stigma, no help available	“why do you drink?”
Bad school conditions		
Student leadership opportunities		
School safety	Location; gun control policies; economy; SES	
Teen pregnancy	SES; family situation	
School choice	In-state vs out-of-state	
Stress		
Sex and racial discrimination		
Prohibitive cost of sports equipment	Low-income families	
Student involvement and engagement	Apathy	
Funding for the arts		
Freedom of speech		

Community Conversation – Group 2		
Problem/Issue/Concern	Cause	Solution
Sexual Assault - College	Rape culture; under the influence; dangers in going alone; lack of security; access to drugs and alcohol	
College Affordability	Financial aid system (middle class families have limited access); lack of parental support affirmative action; financial literacy; understanding FAFSA	
Lack of College and Career Readiness; Financial Awareness	International and global competition readiness; common core implementation; teach values (AP vs Career); advising on passion, not numbers; listening to youth	
Overcrowding of foster homes	Lack of foster parents; lack of	

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	resources; mental health issues within; “throwing children into a zoo;” lack of awareness; divorce rates – single parents; more parents giving up – behavior, financial, don’t want; planned parenthood scrutiny; contraception awareness (healthcare options); addiction (parents); hopelessness; support for foster children; parents’ beliefs	
Depression	Bullying; Stress; lack of support; lack of subcultures; peer pressure; genetics; mental abuse; discrimination; mental health screenings; QPR training; suicide awareness; stigma; socio-economic conditions; environmental pressures; media; counselor relationships; lack of mental healthcare; “too busy to be depressed”	
Youth Suicide		
Unemployment		
Homelessness		
Discrimination – Policy implementation		
Funding for School Construction		
Consolidation of Schools		
Equity in Department of Juvenile Services Facilities		
Trash		
Bullying – Cyber		
Smoking/Drugs – Heroin use		
Lack of positive role models		
Lack of after school programs		
Advising		
Old Schools		
Technology in schools		
Discipline policies (positive)		
Teacher/student ratio in classroom		
Juvenile detention alternatives		
School budgets		

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Lack of challenge in schools		
Chesapeake bay policy – blue crabs		
Green energy incentives		
Wind turbines		
Mental health awareness		
Bullying – LGBTQ		
Racial profiling		
Police brutality		
Gun control		

Health Education and Counseling Reform

- QPR Training
- Training from counselors - Train and educate rest of staff
- Bill for Counseling Reform – counselors reaching out, MYAC meet with legislators (Zach know Del. Valentino-Smith)
- Statewide health class – all counties are currently different
- Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention
- Advocacy Day – Office visits

Legislative Platform

Council member Nick Schmitz, reviews Roberts Rule of Order and Parliamentary Procedure

I. Youth Representation

- Amendment to change the language of subsection D of section 1 from legislation impacting students to legislation impacting youth
- Plan I approved

II. Youth Leadership

- Plank II approved

III. Education

- Motion to add subsection F about life skills and financial literacy
- Parliamentary Procedure suspended
- Discussion on providing life skills
- Debate tabled
- Motion to un-bold “to” in subsection F of Higher Education
- Remove second “.” in subsection D in section 4
- Subsection F approved to read “Availability of Life Skills Education”
- Plank III approved

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IV. Health and Social Issues

- Motion to change language to read “Establishment of consistent concussion testing procedures statewide”.
- Plank IV approved

V. Youth Safety and Student Discipline

- Motion to rearrange language of subsection B of we oppose
- Add subsection C to we oppose reading “Mandatory reporting of violations of school policy”
- Add subsection D to we oppose reading “Unjustified charge of juvenile offenders as adults and placement in adult correctional facilities”
- Plank V approved

VI. Environmental Issues

- Plank VI approved

VII. Youth Employment

- Add subsection G reading “Seasonal Youth employees being guaranteed equal minimum wage”
- Plank VII approved

Children’s Cabinet Meeting in December: Thursday, December 17, 2015, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm State House

- MYAC is on the agenda for the meeting
- Given an hour to talk about MYAC
- Executive Committee will create presentation
- Presentation will discuss - MYAC history, vision, how we can be supported, importance of youth voice representing youth policy and share legislative platform

Committee Breakouts

Meeting Adjourned

Action Items

- Council members are to set-up mdyac email accounts and password.
- Follow-up with committee chairs for tasks
- Executive Board will create draft presentation for the Children’s Cabinet meeting, to be shared for comment at the November meeting.

Next Meeting

November 21, 2015 location: TBD